

AGN. NO. _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS YVONNE BRATHWAITE BURKE AND
ZEV YAROSLAVSKY

January 27, 2004

On Thursday, January 22nd, leaflets were distributed in the wards of King/Drew Medical Center (KDMC) to patients, physicians, and staff claiming that the County was closing the hospital. The leaflet urged people to attend a community meeting on Friday, January 23rd. The theme that the County was closing KDMC was repeatedly emphasized throughout the press conference and community meeting held on January 23rd.

The information that was distributed, particularly the charge that the hospital was being closed, was erroneous. Nevertheless, as a result of the dissemination of the information, there has been an understandable increase in concern within the local community and among medical professionals who serve the area.

It is imperative that this issue be clarified immediately. In response to federal, state, and county reviews of KDMC, and consistent with the Department of Health Services (DHS) strategic plan involving all of the County's hospitals, DHS has initiated

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changes on the configuration of services within the entire hospital network, including KDMC.

The County's efforts to restructure services at KDMC should not be construed as a proposal to close the hospital; in fact, the County of Los Angeles has made no plans to close KDMC. On the contrary, the County's considerable efforts at KDMC are aimed at preserving the hospital and its vital role in the countywide trauma network and its service to the local region.

WE THEREFORE MOVE THAT the Board of Supervisors reaffirm its intention to correct the problems at King/Drew Medical Center with the objective of preserving the hospital and its vital role in the countywide health care delivery system.

WE FURTHER MOVE THAT DHS be directed to continue on its efforts to address the problems that have been identified at KDMC and to assure that the highest level of healthcare service be provided to the County's patients at this and all other County medical facilities.

FINALLY WE MOVE THAT the County reassert that it has made no plans to close KDMC.

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YBB:ZY:PM:jts(KDMCclosure)